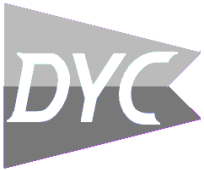


RANGE MARKS

Official Newsletter of the Dahlgren Yacht Club

<http://www.nswc.navy.mil/C2/dyc/>



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From the Commodore:

Spring with its chores of getting ready for the boating season has come and gone. We are now enjoying the fruits of the earlier labor in numerous water related activities:Êskiing, power boating, pwc operation, sailing, fishing, racing, raftups, cruises, installing new toys and gadgets, brightwork, and repairing the latest breakdown. That should be enough to keep all busy and out of trouble for the remainder of the summer!ÊWhat was good on Machodoc Creek and the Potomac River last month has just gotten better.Ê

Please note that the hurricane season has just begun. There has been a great deal of publicity about how Virginia has been spared in the recent past and is now due for a major landfall. There is a great deal of preparation information on the DYC website, and I would encourage all to take advantage of the available material. I would also encourage all to prepare now for any evacuations or actions that may be required in the future. When you get to the hurricane hole and find that the anchor rode is not up to snuff, it will be too late to resolve the issue. Let's all hope for a non eventful hurricane season, but we need to be prepared regardless.

The Capitol Improvement Finance Committee has been meeting and has developed several options to begin construction of the new bathhouse this fall. We are trying our best to make sure that the construction really does begin this fall. More details will be forthcoming.

All that have participated in the recent social events had a great time. Several events are scheduled in the near future. I would encourage all, including myself, to participate in these excellent times for all club members to get together to socialize and discuss current and future events. All club members are cordially invited to attend all club social events.

See you on the water soon!

Tom Owen

Weather Notice!

Hurricane season officially started 1 June 2001 - please keep abreast of the weather reports - thunderstorms and high winds can come up any time in the summer. Be sure your boats are rigged accordingly. For details on how to anchor properly for a hurricane click on Training and Seamanship on the DYC web page or contact the Training and Seamanship Governor.

IMPORTANT DATES

June 18 PHRF Dock Party
June 23 Centerboard Regatta
July 14 Twilight Cruise

The Sailing Beat by Josh Colwell

May 7 was the PHRF Spring Low Point Series race #4. Conditions were beautiful, sunny, and windy with at the start with a strong SE breeze at 12-14 kt, which stirred up the chop considerably. The 10 boats at the start were Ol'Blue, Meele, Night Moose, Blue Heaven, All-Ridy-Then, Dionysus, Honey-Do, Destiny, GWTW, and Lively Lady. The 1700 start went off without a hitch with Radio-Flyer performing Race Committee duty flawlessly. The course was WF, a 7.07 nautical mile windward-leeward course. The race started with all boats close-hauled beating out towards the first mark, "D" located off Colonial Beach. Several boats went farther out into the river and others stayed closer in towards shore hoping to gain on the others. The beat to windward was long and strenuous but that's what it's all about. First to round the mark was Ol'Blue followed by Blue Heaven, Meele, All-Ridy-Then, Dionysus, and Night Moose. Ol'Blue launched her spinnaker first followed by Meele, and All-Ridy-Then. Night Moose's spinnaker went up with a "Dolly Parton" (a big twist in the sail) but it got straightened out eventually. The spinnaker run back to the finish was a good haul with some boats going inshore, some going farther out into the river for a hotter angle, and others taking the middle. In the end, first over the line was Ol'Blue followed by Meele, All-Ridy-Then, Night Moose, and Blue Heaven. Once handicap corrections were applied, the top finishing places were 1st Ol'Blue, 2nd Meele and 3rd Night Moose.

May 14 was the PHRF Spring Low Point Series race #5. Conditions were beautiful and sunny at the start with a NNW breeze at 8-10 kt. The 7 boats at the start were Meele, Night Moose, Blue Heaven, Dionysus, Destiny, Lively Lady, and Frigate. Other than an incorrect starting line, the 1657 start went off without a hitch with Ol'Blue performing Race Committee duty. The course was TBR, a 5.33 nautical mile Triangular course. The race started with all boats on a spinnaker run out towards the channel and the first mark, "29". The winds built as the fleet headed towards the mark and several boats nearly rounded up. Rounding the mark onto the second leg, the spinnaker gybe was a little challenging due to the building breeze. The run down to the second mark, "S" off Potomac Beach was a fast one with the wind speed increasing further. Rounding the second mark onto a windward beat required that the headsails be raised and spinnakers doused. Most boats had small problems dousing their spinnakers. First to round the mark was Blue Heaven, followed by Frigate, Meele, and Night Moose. The beat to windward was challenging with the wind speed increasing considerably due to a passing front. Sustained winds in the high 20's with higher gusts were experienced in addition to some rain. Most boats were overpowered and just rode it out. Others reduced sail only to have the wind drop off requiring another sail change back to the original configuration. As the competitors jockeyed for better position with the shifting wind, tactics became more important. Several boats went farther out into the river while those that stayed closer in had minimal current and benefited further from the shifts getting lifted towards the finish. As the first boats approached the finish line in dying conditions, one would never have thought that a powerful squall had just passed through. First over the finish line was Blue Heaven, followed by Night Moose, Frigate, Meele, and Lively Lady. Once handicap corrections were applied, the top finishing places were 1st Blue Heaven, 2nd Night Moose and 3rd Frigate.

May 21 was the PHRF Spring Low Point Series race #6. What started out as an ugly day with periodic heavy rain and wind turned into overcast conditions with some drizzle and an E-SE wind at 3-6 kt. Inclement weather contributed to a low turnout with only 5 boats at the start. Meele, Night Moose, Blue Heaven, All-Ridy-Then, and Frigate jockeyed for position and the 1650 start went off without a hitch with Destiny performing Race Committee duty. There was an individual recall with All-Ridy-Then over early. After coming back over the line and re-starting, All-Ridy-Then continued close-hauled towards the first mark. The course was TA, a 3.77 nautical mile Triangular course. The race started with all boats close-hauled heading towards the first mark, "2". Halfway to the mark the fleet was split with 3 boats close in towards shore and the two others farther out into the river. First around the mark was Night Moose, followed by All-Ridy-Then, and Meele. Once on the second leg, it became apparent that the two other boats, Blue Heaven and Frigate appeared to be sailing a course other than TA, which was posted by the committee boat. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to hail the boats in an effort to notify them. The remainder of leg 2 was a fast reach out to "29". After rounding the 2nd mark onto the third leg, spinnakers went up for the final and downwind portion of the race. The spinnaker run to the finish was uneventful in the steady and overcast conditions. First over the finish line was Frigate, followed by Night Moose, Meele, All-Ridy-Then, and Blue Heaven. Once over the finish line, Night Moose Officially Protested both Frigate and Blue Heaven for not rounding the first mark, a violation of rule 28.1. Both Frigate and Blue Heaven acknowledged the error and were scored DSQ (disqualified) and the official protest was withdrawn. Once handicap corrections were applied, the top finishing places were 1st Night Moose, 2nd Meele and 3rd All-Ridy-Then.

For Sale by Members

24' Seafarer '74, sleeps 5, standing headroom, VHF, depth, knots, stereo, 5 sails, 9.9 electric start Evinrude, 2 speed winches. \$3000, located Upper Machodoc Creek, Potomac River. Call 540-663-2861 for more information.

DOCK MASTER

Reminder - Guests of members must be accompanied by member at all times while at the DYC facilities.

Children at the DYC facilities must be accompanied by a member. For safety reasons, children of members are treated as guests and must have an active member present at all times.

The floating dock area is for use to load and unload people and articles for ease of launching and preparing to take your boat out. Please limit your time to no more than 15 to 20 minutes. This is not a temporary wet slip.

Watch out for the snakes by the ramp. The base is in the process of removing the snakes.

DECALS - ALL DECALS MUST BE DISPLAYED ON BOATS AND TRAILERS BY 15 JUNE 2001. WE ARE FINDING MULTIPLE INFRACTIONS OF NO DECALS DISPLAYED

Training and Seamanship

Any members or members knowing persons who are interested in a novice sailing course to be held this summer, please contact the safety/seamanship governor, Joe, at 663-2861. Nominal fees will apply. Boat ownership not required. Course will be part textbook, part on the water, on keelboats.

CAPTION CONTEST WINNER



*DYC Sportfisher Attacks Chinese MiG;
Forced to Make Emergency Landing For Repairs*

Congratulations to Jim Sullivan on his winning entry in the caption contest.

Second place to Michael Wehrle and third place to Roger Poole.

The other entries:

"I distinctly said to back the trailer down the ramp FIRST!" Roger Poole

"Now that's some MURKY water!!" Roger Poole

"Raise my what !?!" Roger Poole

Two blades short of a full prop. Michael D. Wehrle

Honey, can you turn down the radio until I figure out why the truck is bogging down?

Kevin J. Richling

Tall Timbers Cruise by Jeff Blanton

The weather forecast for the Tidal Potomac on Saturday, May 26, was "Showers, heavy at times, temperatures in the 50's and S. E. winds 10 to 15. And that was what we had---the entire trip. Nevertheless, four intrepid DYC boats were safely moored at Tall Timbers Marina by late afternoon: Reel Magic, Not-So-Interim, Dionysus, and Panacea. The rain gradually tapered off; dry clothes and a few libations renewed everyone's spirits, and off we tromped to the Saturday Night Seafood Buffet at the Marina House restaurant. The buffet was quite good. It included crab cakes, shrimp and fried soft shell crabs. The rest of the evening's entertainment included conversation and karaoke in the bar followed by a sing-along hosted by the Cox family on Panacea. As the evening progressed into the wee hours of the morning, the "enthusiasm" of the singers increased even if creativity in song selection didn't. We don't need to hear Michael Rowed the Boat Ashore and Mammy's Little Baby Loves Shortenin' Bread again anytime soon! Sunday broke still and pleasant, but foggy. We started with Rick's famed (rightly so) Bloody Marys and an excellent breakfast buffet. The fog soon burned off leaving a beautiful spring day that we used to rest, read, visit, meet people, tune up equipment, etc. Melee, Ol' Blue and Destiny showed up bringing the Dahlgren total up to 7 boats. A local favorite group, CAROL O'NEIL AND THE 25TH HOUR provided nice late afternoon entertainment from the patio. By time for the evening buffet "picnic" the parking lot was full of local cars and many more transient boats were moored at the marina. The picnic (Bar-B-Q ribs and chicken, ham, baked beans, etc.), the later bon-fire on the beach and the even later yacht club socializing were all good. As usual, Tall Timbers owner, manager and all around handy man, Rick Meatyard, and his family and others at this St Mary's County institution were friendly, gracious, and just plain fun to be with. The weather held for the Monday trip back up the river. All in all, it was a very pleasant cruise and a great weekend

*DYC TWILIGHT CRUISE TO COBB ISLAND
SATURDAY JULY 14, 2001 BE AT THE COLONIAL BEACH PIER AT 1600.*

CRUISE THE 'BIG DIPPER' TO CAPT JOHNS CRABHOUSE, DINNER ON YOUR OWN.

TWILIGHT CRUISE BACK TO COLONIAL BEACH AFTER DINNER.

MEMBER COST \$10 PER PERSON. THE FIRST 40 TO PAY GET TO GO!!

PLEASE CONTACT Joe Futcher AT 663-2861 FOR RESERVATIONS, AND PAY IN ADVANCE.

Make checks to DYC and mail to Joe at:

Joe Futcher

P.O. Box 1148

Dahlgren, VA. 22448

Joe is also reachable via e-mail at

joebob@crosslink.net

SNACKS AND SODAS WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE BOAT.

The cruise is on SAT this year so those who found it difficult to arrive on time have NO excuse!!